

REMARKS

The objections to the drawings have been noted. Applicant believes that the objection to the control cable and disconnect-type clutch has been obviated. That notwithstanding, however, Applicant must traverse the objections and request reconsideration, particularly with regard to the alleged failure to show the very conventional connections. The Office Action incorrectly states that Figure 1 “presently shows the forward gears G1 to G7 and the reverse gear R fixedly connected to the corresponding input shafts 2 and 4 . . .” The schematic drawing shows no such thing as would be evident from the disclosure and as would unquestionably be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Indeed, innumerable patent drawings for similar gearing systems use the schematic form employed by Applicant to depict conventional rotatable gear connections in transmissions.

The Office Action also objects to the drawings as not showing every feature of the claimed invention specified in the Claims, namely “two input clutches.” Such terminology has not been employed in the Claims. Clarification is therefore requested. Likewise, although the term “disconnect-type clutch” has been removed from the claims as unnecessary, one of ordinary skill in the art will know what the term means. Reference to such clutches can easily be found in patent literature (see e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,860861) as well as in an Internet search.

The objection to Claim 1 [sic, 11] has been addressed.

The rejection of Claims 11-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 is traversed. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks.

The rejections of Claim 11 as being anticipated by Reed, Jr., et al., under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of Claims 14 and 15 as being unpatentable over Reed, Jr., et al., in view of Beer et al., under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and of Claim 20 as being unpatentable over Reed, Jr., et al., in view of Kronstadt under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are each traversed. Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The Reed, Jr., et al., gear preselect system is not one that employs an H-shift pattern. It appears that the only reference to such a pattern is found at col. 1., line 28 (the citation found in the Office Action) but that reference relates solely to the standard J pattern that was replaced by a shift lever moving back and forth. Beyond that, however, the Reed, Jr., et al., patent is not concerned with the implementation of an H-shift pattern.

The Office Action also asserts that the Reed, Jr., et al., patent teaches the employment of shifter shafts for implementing the H-shift pattern. Although the Office Action commendably attempts to provide support for each of the claimed features, tellingly it has not done so here.

The Beer et al., shifting device is very different from present invention as well as from the Reed, Jr., et al., selector system in that the Beer et al., device employs only a single finger per frame instead of the multiple shift fingers of the present invention. A *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be based upon the

Beer et al., patent. For that matter, the same is true with regard to the manual transmission shift control mechanism disclosed in the Kronstadt patent. Only impermissible hindsight allows one now to conclude that a combination of the manual transmission mechanism with the Reed, Jr., et al., dual input shaft transmission would have been obvious.

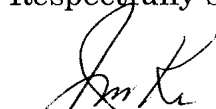
Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028987.55239US).

Respectfully submitted,

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